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(54) **A cleaning solution and its use for cleaning silicon semiconductors and silicon oxides.**

(57) A cleaning solution for achieving highly accurate cleaning of silicon semiconductors and silicon oxides. The solution which enables a great reduction in the metal contaminants and the number of fine particles adhered on the surfaces and retention of the hydrophilic property of the surfaces to prevent the surfaces from being unstable, comprising an aqueous acidic solution containing 0.005 % by weight or more to less than 0.05 % by weight hydrogen fluoride and 0.3 % by weight or more to 20.0 % by weight or less hydrogen peroxide and having a pH in the range from 1 or more to less than 5.

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In the course of production of semiconductor devices, semiconductor wafers and glass wafers cleaning steps are conducted before various stages.

However, such cleaning solution may inevitably cause contamination with Fe, Zn and Al which are trace metal contaminants in the solution. For this reason, all the wafers, from which metal contaminants must be removed, are cleaned by the SC-1 cleaning process, followed by cleaning with acidic solution.

There have been known conventional practical methods related to the cleaning with various acids such as (1) an acidic solution containing hydrofluoric acid, sulfuric acid and hydrogen peroxide in water as disclosed in Japanese Patent KOKAI (Laid-open) No. Sho 58-30135, (2) a combination of a mixture of ammonia and hydrogen peroxide in water with a mixture of hydrochloric acid and hydrogen peroxide in water as disclosed in Japanese Patent KOKAI No. Hei 2-100320, (3) an acidic solution containing hydrochloric acid and hydrogen peroxide as disclosed in Japanese Patent KOKAI No. Hei 3-273629, (4) a combination of the cleaning with an aqueous solution of hydrofluoric acid, followed by treatment with hydrogen peroxide as disclosed in Japanese Patent KOKAI No. Hei 4-177725, (5) a solution of strong acid and a very small amount of a compound containing fluorine as disclosed in Japanese Patent KOKAI No. Hei 4-234118, and (6) a solution containing 0.5 % hydrofluoric acid and 0.1 to 1 % hydrogen peroxide, with which cleaning is conducted at room temperature, as disclosed in, for example, "TRYBOROZIST" Vol. 37, No. 3, (1992) pp. 218-224.

The cleaning solution of the invention of the above item (1) are for performing degreasing treatment, heavy metals-removing treatment and etching treatment (for removal of residual stress in a ground layer) at the same time, but not for the purpose of inhibiting the adhesion of fine particles during cleaning, which is different in object and industrial utilization from the cleaning solution of the present invention.

For example, Examples 22 and 23 shown in Table 1 in the present specification were evaluated for the etching speed to result in about 0.35 Angstrom/min.

It is considered from the foregoing that the "proportion of HF to be mixed" ranges from 0.1 to 1.5 % and that the concentration of hydrofluoric acid is definitely different to an extent of orders of magnitude from that of the cleaning solution of the present invention.

The cleaning solution of the invention (5) comprises primarily a concentrated acid and Table 1 in the Examples shows typical compositions of cleaning solution where the concentration of sulfuric acid is 88.9 % by weight in all cases.

The method of the invention (5) describes in paragraph 11 of the specification that a key point of the invention lies in no oxide film observed on the surfaces of the cleaned wafers, which surfaces have been

made chemophobic, and in fact all the surfaces of cleaned wafers shown in Table 2 of the Examples of the invention (5) were made chemophobic.

In contrast, the cleaning solution of the present invention does not impair the hydrophilic property of the surfaces even after cleaning. Therefore, the invention (5) is different from the present invention.

5 The cleaning solution of the invention (6) and that of the present invention are the same in the point of containing hydrofluoric acid and hydrogen peroxide, but different apparently from each other in the concentration of hydrofluoric acid.

As shown in Table 1 of the present specification, Comparative Examples 58 to 60 indicate that when the silicon wafers made previously hydrophilic by the SC-1 cleaning (APM cleaning) are cleaned with the
10 cleaning solution of the invention (6) containing 0.25 % to 0.50 % hydrogen fluoride + 1 % hydrogen peroxide and rinsed with pure water, the surfaces are converted to be hydrophobic with an increase in the number of fine particles adhered after cleaning.

Therefore, the cleaning solution of the invention (6) is completely different from that of the present invention.

15 As described above, there has been sought a technique for cleaning wafers which is capable of removing metal contaminants with minimum adhesion of fine particles in the production of semiconductor devices, semiconductor wafers and glass wafers.

Industrial development tends to require an increasingly severer level of reduction in the amounts of metal contaminants and adhered particles to be achieved, which target level becomes difficult to achieve by
20 conventional cleaning techniques.

In view of the aforementioned circumstances, an object of the present invention is to provide a novel high performance solution for cleaning silicon semiconductors and silicon oxides which is capable of reducing drastically the level of metal contaminants on the surfaces of wafers and the number of adhered particles as well as retaining the hydrophilic property of the surfaces of wafers to prevent the surfaces from becoming unstable.
25

This object could be achieved by providing a cleaning solution comprising an aqueous acidic solution containing 0.005 % by weight or more to less than 0.05 % by weight hydrogen fluoride and 0.3 % by weight or more to 20.0 % by weight or less hydrogen peroxide and having a pH in the range from 1 or more to less than 5.

30 In a preferred embodiment the aqueous acidic solution of the present invention contains at least one acid, salt and/or base in addition to said hydrogen fluoride and said hydrogen peroxide.

The cleaning solution of the present invention comprises an aqueous solution containing 0.005 % by weight or more to less than 0.05 % by weight hydrogen fluoride, 0.3 % by weight or more to 20.0 % by weight or less hydrogen peroxide having a pH of one or more to less than 5, which cleaning solution
35 enables a reduction in the amount of metal contaminants on the surfaces of silicon semiconductors and silicon oxides cleaned therewith and a great reduction in the adhesion of particles, which have been produced during cleaning in the solution, onto the surfaces without impairing the hydrophilic property of the surfaces even after cleaning when the silicon semiconductors and silicon oxides have hydrophilic oxide film on the surfaces thereof.

40 The aforementioned aqueous acidic solution may contain, in addition of the hydrogen fluoride and hydrogen peroxide, at least one of acids, salts and bases. The acids may be selected from phosphoric acid, sulfuric acid, nitric acid, trichloroacetic acid, dichloroacetic acid, hydrochloric acid, monochloroacetic acid, and acetic acid. The salts may be selected from ammonium salts and amine salts. The bases may be selected from ammonia and amines.

45 As clearly can be seen from the Examples in Table 1, the cleaning solution according to the present invention allows production of extremely clean silicon semiconductors and silicon oxides having minimum amounts of metal contaminants and fine particles adhered on the surfaces thereof by cleaning them with the solution without impairing the hydrophilic property of the surfaces cleaned.

Moreover, the cleaning solution of the present invention does not cause any haze on the silicon wafers
50 cleaned with the solution at all.

The cleaning solutions of the present invention are suitable for cleaning silicon semiconductor wafers and glass wafers and they can be used to any form without losing their characteristics due to the form to be cleaned.

A step using the cleaning solution of the present invention may be performed in combination with other
55 cleaning steps. As shown in the Examples, for example, the so-called SC-1 cleaning (APM cleaning) using an alkaline water solution comprising a mixture of an aqueous solution of hydrogen peroxide/ammonia water/pure water may be conducted as precleaning. Alternatively, precleaning with an aqueous solution of hydrofluoric acid may be conducted.

When the cleaning is performed using the cleaning solution of the present invention, preferably articles to be cleaned should be completely immersed in the cleaning solution to avoid uneven cleaning.

The characteristics of the cleaning solution of the present invention are not impaired even when the articles to be cleaned in the course of cleaning are subjected to, e.g. ultrasonic waves.

5 Preferably the cleaning temperature should be in the range of 50 to 90 °C. The cleaning time should preferably be in the range of several minutes to 30 minutes.

It would be apparent for those skilled in the industrial field related to the present invention that cleaning conditions can not generally be determined because they are influenced by a number of factors such as cleanliness of articles to be cleaned and properties of the surfaces, production cost and throughput.

10 The cleaning of silicon wafers with the cleaning solution of the present invention does not cause an increase in roughness of the surfaces, nor side effects such as a reduction in electric breakdown strength of thermal oxide films.

The reasons why the concentration of hydrogen fluoride in the cleaning solution of the present invention is defined in the range from 0.005 % by weight or more to less than 0.05 % by weight are as follows:

15 A content of hydrogen fluoride less than 0.005 % by weight may result in a reduced recombination life time, i.e., a reduction in the ability of removing metal contaminants on the surfaces with the number of fine particles adhered being somewhat increased as can be seen from Comparative Example 53 in Table 1.

A content of hydrogen fluoride higher than 0.05 % by weight may make the surfaces of the cleaned silicon wafers hydrophobic with the number of fine particles adhered being greatly increased after cleaning as can be seen from Comparative Examples 48 and 49 in Table 1.

20 Such increase in the number of fine particles adhered may be suppressed to a certain degree by lowering the cleaning temperature as can be seen from Comparative Examples 58 to 60 in Table 1, but the resultant number still remains considerably higher than that achieved with the cleaning solution of the present invention. Moreover, the surfaces of the silicon wafers after cleaning are hydrophobic.

25 Therefore, in order to achieve a reduction in the amount of metal contaminants on the surfaces of the cleaned articles as well as a great reduction in the adhesion of floating fine particles produced during cleaning in the solution onto the surfaces without impairing the hydrophilic property of the cleaned surfaces, the content of hydrogen fluoride should be in the range from 0.005 % by weight or more to less than 0.05 % by weight.

30 From the foregoing, the concentration of hydrogen fluoride in the cleaning solution of the present invention is defined to be in the range from 0.005 % by weight or more to less than 0.05 % by weight.

The reasons why the concentration of hydrogen peroxide in the cleaning solution of the present invention are defined to be in the range from 0.3 % by weight or more to 20 % by weight or less are as follows:

35 A content of hydrogen peroxide of less than 0.3 % by weight may render the surfaces of silicon wafers hydrophobic after cleaning with an increase in the number of fine particles after cleaning as can be seen from Comparative Examples 51 and 52 in Table 1.

40 When the content of hydrogen peroxide is more than 0.3 % by weight, the amount of metal contaminants on the surfaces of the cleaned articles is reduced, the adhesion of floating fine particles produced during cleaning in the solution is extremely reduced, and the hydrophilic property of the surfaces is not impaired even after cleaning as can be seen from Examples in Table 1.

45 Comparative Example 50 indicates that the characteristics of the cleaning solution of the present invention may be retained even at a content of hydrogen peroxide in excess of 20 % by weight. However, such high content of hydrogen peroxide is not only disadvantageous in cost, but also undesirable from a safety viewpoint because of evolution of oxygen gas through decomposition of hydrogen peroxide.

From the foregoing, the concentration of hydrogen peroxide in the cleaning solution of the present invention are defined to be in the range from 0.3 % by weight or more to 20 % by weight or less.

The reasons why the pH of the cleaning solution of the present invention is defined to be in the range from one or more to less than 5 are as follows:

50 If the pH is less than 1, the number of fine particles adhered after cleaning is greatly increased even at concentrations of hydrogen fluoride and hydrogen peroxide in the ranges defined for the cleaning solution of the present invention as can be seen from Comparative Example 61 in Table 1.

If the pH is not less than 5, the recombination life time is reduced and the ability of removing metal contaminants on the surfaces is declined as illustrated by Comparative Example 62 shown in Table 1.

55 Therefore, in order to decrease the amount of metal contaminants on the surfaces of the cleaned articles and to markedly reduce the adhesion of floating fine particles produced during cleaning in the solution onto the surfaces without impairing the hydrophilic property of the surfaces even by cleaning, the range of pH should be from one or more to less than 5.

From the foregoing, the pH of the cleaning solution of the present invention is defined to be in the range from one or more to less than 5.

The cleaning solution of the present invention may contain, in addition of the hydrogen fluoride and hydrogen peroxide, at least one acid, salt and/or base. The acids may be selected from phosphoric acid, sulfuric acid, nitric acid, trichloroacetic acid, dichloroacetic acid, hydrochloric acid, monochloroacetic acid, and acetic acid. The salts may be selected from ammonium salts and amine salts. The bases may be selected from ammonia and amines.

Table 1 shows Examples where phosphoric acid, sulfuric acid, nitric acid, trichloroacetic acid, dichloroacetic acid, hydrochloric acid, monochloroacetic acid, acetic acid, ammonium fluoride, ammonium chloride, ammonium nitrate, choline chloride, ammonia and choline were used as additives.

In any case, it is apparent that the amount of metal contaminants on the surfaces of cleaned articles can be decreased and the adhesion of floating fine particles produced in the course of cleaning in the solution onto the surfaces can be greatly reduced without impairing the hydrophilic property of the cleaned surfaces.

As described above, the addition of a wide variety of acids, salts and bases does not diminish the characteristics of the cleaning solutions of the present invention, which indicates clearly that the acids, salts and bases to be added into the cleaning solution of the present invention are not limited to those illustrated in Examples.

Mechanism which allows the cleaning solutions of the present invention to exhibit their characteristics has been not understood, though the cleaning solution of the present invention are different from those of the prior art in the following points:

Japanese Patent KOKAI (Laid-open) No. Hei 3-273629 describes the characteristics of a solution containing hydrochloric acid and hydrogen peroxide, and Figure 1 thereof shows that "the amount of particle adhered (the number of fine particles to be adhered after cleaning)" begins to increase at a pH of 5 or less, markedly at a pH of 3 or less.

In contrast, the cleaning solution of the present invention produces less number of fine particles adhered after cleaning even at a pH in the range from 1 to 3 as shown in Example 32 in Table 1.

Japanese Patent KOKAI No. Hei 3-273629 teaches in Figure 2 that the increase in cleaning temperature causes an increase in "the amount of particles adhered", markedly at 60 °C or higher.

In this regard, the Table 1 shows Comparative Examples 54 to 57 using identical cleaning solution to those described in Japanese Patent KOKAI No. Hei 3-273629 where the number of fine particles to be adhered onto the surfaces after cleaning was 170/cm² or more.

In contrast, the cleaning solution of the present invention produces drastically reduced number of fine particles to be adhered from those floated in the solution onto the surfaces even at a cleaning temperature of 60 °C or higher as illustrated in Examples 19, 20, 26 and 27 shown in Table 1.

It is apparent from the foregoing that the cleaning solution of the present invention is different from those of the prior art.

Examples

The present invention is further described with reference to Examples, but it is not intended to limit the scope of the present invention thereto.

First, a procedure for evaluating the ability of removing metal contaminants on the surfaces will be described.

Fresh silicon wafers and glass wafers were immersed in a mixture of water containing 28 % ammonia, water containing 30 % hydrogen peroxide and pure water mixed in a volume ratio of 1 : 1 : 5 at 70 °C for 5 minutes.

The wafers removed from the immersion were rinsed in pure water for 5 minutes, and after the surfaces were confirmed to be hydrophilic, the wafers were dried on a spin dryer.

This procedure will be referred to as APM cleaning hereinafter. The APM cleaning may cause adhesion of heavy metal impurities in the cleaning solution onto the surfaces of wafers in the course of cleaning resulting in contaminated surfaces.

Only Examples 24 and 25 shown in Table 1 were subjected to the APM cleaning, then immersed in an aqueous 1 % hydrogen fluoride solution for one minute to remove the surface oxide film, rinsed in pure water for 2 minutes and dried on a spin dryer. This procedure will be referred to as DHF cleaning hereinafter.

Next, the silicon wafers or glass wafers were cleaned by immersing in the cleaning solution of the present invention under the conditions indicated in Table 1 (without containing any polystyrene latex fin

particles).

After the wafers were rinsed in pure water for two minutes and determined to have hydrophilic or hydrophobic surfaces, they were dried on a spin dryer. Evaluation of the amount of metal contaminants on the surfaces after cleaning were made in two ways, one of which was by the value of recombination carrier life time. The higher the value, the higher the purity, and the less the amount of metal contaminants on the surfaces.

In the procedure, the wafers cleaned with the cleaning solution of the present invention and dried were oxidized at a high temperature of 1000 °C in an atmosphere of dry oxygen for 70 minutes to produce an oxide film of about 500 Angstroms, cooled to room temperature, and then evaluated for the recombination carrier life time by a microwave reflective life time measuring apparatus (photoconductive decay method).

Another method for evaluation of the amount of metal contaminants on the surfaces after cleaning used atomic absorption spectrometry. The contaminant metals on the surfaces of wafers were recovered with a mixture of hydrofluoride acid and nitric acid and the concentration of the metals in the recovered solution was quantitatively determined by the atomic absorption spectrometry and converted into a surface contaminant concentration. The lower quantitative limit of this method is about 8×10^9 atoms/cm².

The adhesion of fine particles onto the surfaces from those floating in the solution was evaluated by the following procedure. After fresh wafers were cleaned with APM (only Examples 24 and 25 in the Table 1 were cleaned with APM and then with DHF), the silicon wafers or glass wafers were immersed in the cleaning solution of the present invention to be cleaned under the conditions stated in Table 1.

In the cleaning solution of the present invention, polystyrene latex fine particles having a diameter of 0.352 μ m were predispersed in a concentration of 1.5×10^5 /liter.

After cleaning, the wafers were rinsed for two minutes and dried by a spin dryer. Evaluation of fine particles adhered on the wafers was made by using an instrument of measuring fine particles (light scattering method) to determine the number of fine particles adhered having a diameter of more than 0.33 μ m which was converted into a value per unit area.

Examples 05 and 06 in Table 1 were evaluated by conducting examination under the illumination from a condenser. (The wafers were examined by the naked eye under irradiation with an intense light in a dark room. The existence of adhered fine particles, if any, can be determined owing to scattering of the light.)

Table 1 summarizes the results of the evaluations on the number of fine particles adhered after cleaning with the cleaning solution of the present invention, the recombination carrier life time and the atomic absorption spectrometry (Numbers 01 to 47).

The results of Comparative Examples where a cleaning solution different from those of the present invention in the concentration of hydrogen fluoride, the concentration of hydrogen peroxide and the level of pH as well as a cleaning solution containing no hydrogen fluoride were used to effect cleaning, followed by rinsing, are also given in Table 1 (Numbers 48 to 62).

The cleaning procedure and the evaluation procedure were the same as those employed in the present invention.

The cleaning solution of the present invention resulted in a reduced amount of metal contaminants on the surfaces of the silicon semiconductors and silicon oxides after cleaned, a great reduction in the adhesion of fine particles which have been produced and floating in the solutions in the course of cleaning, and no loss of the hydrophilic property of the surfaces of the silicon semiconductors and silicon oxides, which have been hydrophilic owing to the surface oxide film, even after they are cleaned.

In contrast, the cleaning solution of the comparative examples may result in insufficient reduction in the amount of metal contaminants after cleaning, an increase in the number of fine particles adhered from those produced during cleaning and floating in the solutions onto the surfaces, and a loss of the hydrophilic property of the surfaces of the cleaned articles. Therefore, they can not be used for the purpose of the present invention.

Comparative Example 50 where the concentration of hydrogen peroxide was exceeding the range of the present invention had exceptionally an identical performance to that of the cleaning solution of the present invention.

In all of the Examples of the present invention and the Comparative Examples, no haze occurred under the conditions indicated in Table 1.

Table 1 (1)

Example No. of Present Invention	Composition of cleaning solution				Cleaning conditions		
	HF wt. %	H ₂ O ₂ wt. %	Other additives* mol/liter	pH	Cleaned wafer**	Temperature °C	Time (min.)
01	0.048	10.0	B: 0.005	2.0	V(N)	80	5
02	"	"	C: 0.0063	2.1	"	"	"
03	"	"	D: 0.01	1.9	"	"	"
04	0.045	15.0	None	2.4	"	70	"
05	"	8.0	None	"	Y	80	3
06	"	"	None	"	"	60	5
07	0.040	"	E: 0.01	2.0	V(N)	80	"
08	0.030	"	None	2.5	"	"	"
09	"	"	M: 0.005	3.0	"	"	"
10	"	"	N: 0.005	3.1	"	"	"
11	"	"	M: 0.005, F: 0.003	2.7	"	"	"
12	"	"	M: 0.005, I: 0.003	3.5	"	"	"
13	"	3.0	A: 0.01	2.4	"	"	"
15	"	3.0	J: 0.01	2.5	"	"	"
16	0.020	3.0	C: 0.01	2.0	"	"	"
17	0.030	3.0	K: 0.01	2.5	"	"	"

Table 1 (2)

Example No. of Present Invention	Surface condition**		Contaminants after cleaning AAS**	Life time**	Number of adhered fine particles per sq. centimeter**
	Before	After			
01	Hydrophilic	Hydrophilic	***	1283	0.1
02	"	"	***	1342	0.0
03	"	"	***	1290	"
04	"	"	***	1336	"
05	"	"	ND	***	None**
06	"	"	ND	***	None**
07	"	"	***	1306	0.0
08	"	"	***	1333	0.1
09	"	"	***	1352	0.0
10	"	"	***	1299	"
11	"	"	***	1330	"
12	"	"	***	1251	"
13	"	"	***	1220	0.1
15	"	"	***	1299	0.0
16	"	"	***	1337	1.0
17	"	"	***	1314	0.1

Table 1 (3)

Example No. of Present Invention	Composition of cleaning solution			Cleaning conditions		
	HF wt. %	H ₂ O ₂ wt. %	Other additives* ⁽¹⁾ mol/liter	pH	Cleaned wafer* ⁽²⁾ °C	Time (min.)
18	0.030	3.0	L: 0.005	2.5	V(N)	5
19	0.020	6.0	None	2.6	"	"
20	"	"	None	"	"	"
21	"	"	None	"	V(P)	10
22	"	"	None	"	X(N)	5
23	"	"	None	"	X(P)	"
24	"	"	None	"	W(N)	"
25	"	"	None	"	W(P)	"
26	"	"	None	"	V(N)	"
27	"	"	None	"	"	60
28	"	3.0	None	"	"	80
29	"	1.0	None	"	"	"
30	"	0.5	None	"	"	10
31	"	0.3	None	"	"	5
32	"	6.0	F: 0.03	1.5	"	5
33	"	"	F: 0.01	2.0	"	7

Table 1 (4)

Example No. of Present Invention	Surface condition ⁽³⁾		Contaminants after cleaning		Number of adhered fine particles per sq. centimeter ⁽⁶⁾
	Before	After	AAS ⁽⁴⁾	Life time ⁽⁵⁾	
18	Hydrophilic	Hydrophilic	****	1292	0.3
19	"	"	****	1355	0.2
20	"	"	****	1266	0.4
21	"	"	****	529	0.2
22	"	"	ND	****	0.1
23	"	"	ND	****	0.3
24	Hydrophobic	"	****	1288	0.0
25	"	"	****	540	0.1
26	Hydrophilic	"	****	1312	0.0
27	"	"	****	1290	"
28	"	"	****	1317	"
29	"	"	****	1301	0.2
30	"	"	****	1288	"
31	"	"	****	1267	0.0
32	"	"	****	1342	1.9
33	"	"	****	1366	1.2

Table 1 (5)

Example No. of Present Invention	Composition of cleaning solution			Cleaning conditions			
	HF wt. %	H ₂ O ₂ wt. %	Other additives* ⁽¹⁾ mol/liter	pH	Cleaned wafer* ⁽²⁾	Temperature °C	Time (min.)
34	0.020	6.0	F: 0.005, C: 0.005	2.0	V(N)	60	5
35	"	"	F: 0.01, I: 0.003, M: 0.01	2.8	"	80	"
36	"	3.0	G: 0.01	2.4	"	"	"
37	"	"	H: 0.02	2.6	"	"	"
38	0.010	"	None	2.8	"	"	"
39	"	"	None	"	V(P)	60	"
40	0.005	6.0	None	3.0	V(N)	85	"
41	"	3.0	None	"	"	"	"
42	"	"	None	"	V(P)	"	"
43	"	1.0	None	"	V(N)	"	"
44	"	0.5	None	"	"	"	"
45	"	0.3	None	"	"	"	"
46	"	3.0	I: 0.005	3.6	"	80	"
47	0.010	"	I: 0.005, M: 0.0047	4.7	"	"	"

Table 1 (6)

Example No. of Present Invention	Surface condition**)		Contaminants after cleaning AAS**)	Life time**)	Number of adhered fine particles per sq. centimeter**)
	Before	After			
34	Hydrophilic	Hydrophilic	****	1279	0.5
35	"	"	****	1353	0.0
36	"	"	****	1387	0.1
37	"	"	****	1201	0.0
38	"	"	****	1320	0.1
39	"	"	****	515	0.0
40	"	"	****	1300	"
41	"	"	****	1296	"
42	"	"	****	538	"
43	"	"	****	1268	"
44	"	"	****	1200	"
45	"	"	****	1211	"
46	"	"	****	1311	"
47	"	"	****	1369	"

Table 1 (7)

Comparative Example No.	Composition of cleaning solution				Cleaning conditions		
	HF wt. %	H ₂ O ₂ wt. %	Other additives* ⁽¹⁾ mol/liter	pH	Cleaned wafer**	Temperature °C	Time (min.)
48	0.200	3.0	None	1.9	V(N)	60	5
49	0.080	1.0	None	2.2	"	80	8
50	0.020	21.0	None	2.6	"	"	5
51	"	0.1	None	"	"	"	"
52	"	0.05	None	"	"	"	"
53	0.001	3.0	None	3.5	"	"	"
54	None	"	F: 1.0	0.0	"	70	"
55	None	"	F: 1.0	"	V(P)	"	"
56	None	"	F: 0.16	0.8	V(N)	80	10
57	None	"	F: 0.16	"	V(P)	"	10
58	0.50	0.15	None	1.5	V(N)	30	5
59	"	1.0	None	"	"	"	"
60	0.25	"	None	1.8	"	"	"
61	0.010	3.0	C:1.0, Comp.Ex. too low pH	0.0	"	80	"
62	0.010	"	M: 0.6047, A: 0.4000	7.0	"	60	"

Table 1 (8)

Comparative Example No.	Surface condition ^{*)}		Contaminants after cleaning		Number of adhered fine particles per sq. centimeter ^{*)}
	Before	After	AAS ^{*)}	Life time ^{*)}	
48	Hydrophilic	Hydrophobic	***	1304	>170
49	"	"	***	1320	"
50	"	Hydrophilic	***	1366	0.0
51	"	Hydrophobic	***	1300	83
52	"	"	***	1344	107
53	"	Hydrophilic	***	437	3.5
54	"	"	***	1225	>170
55	"	"	***	510	"
56	"	"	***	1136	"
57	"	"	***	533	"
58	"	Hydrophobic	***	1324	23
59	"	"	***	1347	18
60	"	"	***	1310	8.6
61	"	Hydrophilic	***	1241	>170
62	"	"	***	302	0.8

*1' Chemicals are abbreviated as follows: For example, "A: 0.10" means that a chemical A was added in an amount of 0.10 mol/liter.

A: phosphoric acid, B: sulfuric acid, C: nitric acid,
D: trichloroacetic acid, E: dichloroacetic acid,
F: hydrochloric acid, G: monochloroacetic acid,
H: acetic acid, I: ammonium fluoride, J: ammonium
chloride, K: ammonium nitrate, L: choline chloride, M:
ammonia,
N: choline.

*2' Abbreviation of wafers to be cleaned are as follows:

For silicon semiconductor wafers, marks indicated in parentheses represent the type of conductivity, i.e., "P" represents p-type semiconductor, and "N" does n-type semiconductor.

V: silicon semiconductor wafers having a thin oxide film cleaned by the SC-1 cleaning, W: hydrophobic silicon semiconductor wafers having no oxide film before cleaning, X: silicon semiconductor wafers having a thick oxide film of a thickness of about 250 Angstroms, Y: quartz glass wafers.

*3' "Hydrophilic" means hydrophilic surface, while "Hydrophobic" does hydrophobic surface.

*4' AAS represents a quantitative value determined by atomic absorption spectrometry in terms of 10^{16} atoms/cm². The lower limit of the quantitative value is 8×10^9 atoms/cm², and ND means lower than the lower limit.

*5' Life time is the recombination carrier life time determined by a photoconductive decay method (μ -PCD method) in terms of μ sec.

*6' The number of fine particles adhered having a diameter more than $0.3 \mu m\phi$ measured by a light scattering method (an instrument of measuring fine particles).

*7' The wafers were examined by the naked eye to count the number of fine particles adhered (Examination under the illumination from a condenser).

As described above, the use of the cleaning solution of the present invention enables removal of metal contaminants, a reduction in the adhesion of fine particles, and no loss of hydrophilic property of the surfaces to be achieved by cleaning in the course of production of semiconductor devices, semiconductor wafers and glass wafers, so that the present invention contributes progress of the industry.

Claims

1. A cleaning solution comprising an aqueous acidic solution containing 0.005 % by weight or more to less than 0.05 % by weight hydrogen fluoride and 0.3 % by weight or more to 20.0 % by weight or less hydrogen peroxide and having a pH in the range from 1 or more to less than 5.
2. The solution according to Claim 1, wherein said aqueous acidic solution contains at least one acid, salt and/or base in addition to said hydrogen fluoride and said hydrogen peroxide.
3. The solution according to Claim 2, wherein said acid is selected from phosphoric acid, sulfuric acid, nitric acid, trichloroacetic acid, dichloroacetic acid, hydrochloric acid, monochloroacetic acid and acetic acid, said salt is selected from ammonium salts and amine salts, the base is selected from ammonia and amines.
4. Use of the cleaning solution according to any one of claims 1 to 3 for cleaning silicon semiconductors and silicon oxides.